

Name of Issue:

Criteria and methods for choosing varieties/cultivars of vegetatively propagated plants for National Collections

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Participants:

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Highlights from the discussion:

- All countries face problems raising funds for maintenance of national collections.
- It is important to establish collections representing the genetic diversity in each crop with the small number of clones/varieties as possible.
- Both morphological evaluation and molecular techniques must be used to choose clones for permanent collections.
- Regarding molecular techniques a lot of methods are used.
- Some international guidelines for recommended methods would be advantageous.
- Amateurs, private associations, NGOs etc should be involved, both in evaluating/choosing plants for permanent collections and in maintenance.

Future/Next step:

International co-operation regarding evaluation of genetic diversity within different crops is recommended